Crash of Aircraft near Mainpuri in U.P.

152. SMT. JAYAPRADA NAHATA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether an enquiry into the air crash on 30th September, 2001 near Mainpuri in U.P. in which Madhavrao Scindia and seven others were killed has been ordered;

(b) whether this crash has exposed and caused concern on the airworthiness of smaller aircraft used by private operators and private agencies; and

(c) what steps have been taken or are proposed to be taken to ensure that old and small aircraft are airworthy?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) to (c) The aircrash is under investigation by a Committee of Inquiry constituted under Rule 74 of Aircraft Rules 1937. The Committee has not yet submitted its final report.

Subsidy to Haj Pilgrims

153. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to change its policy on subsidies to Haj Pilgrims and the taxpayers who wish to undertake this pilgrimage to Haj will have to pay full fares with immediate effect;

(b) whether as against a full fare of Rs. 33,000.00 Government subsidy amounts to Rs. 21,000.00 per passenger; and

(c) if so, the details of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The government has decided that the pilgrim fare during Haj-2002 movement will be Rs. 12,000/- per head. The balance amount will be paid by the Government as subsidy.

Modernisation of IA's Fleets

154. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state: